Also, an agreement for running Passenger Train Service between Sealdah and Jamuna Bridge was signed in 2001 and during the visit of Minister of External Affairs to Dhaka on February 19, 2007, Bangladesh agreed for early operationalisation of Sealdah (Kolkata)-Joydevpur (Dhaka) passenger train service. This was reiterated by both sides in the Inter-Governmental Railway Meeting held in Dhaka in March, 2007.

On 8th July, 2007, the Indian Team comprising officers from the concerned Ministries/Departments conducted a trial run of the passenger train. In the Inter-Governmental Meeting held on July 9-10, 2007 in Dhaka, both sides expressed their willingness to commence the commercial operation of the passenger train as early as possible subject to other relevant related concerns being addressed to mutual satisfaction. Bangladesh side also conducted their trial run service on July 29, 2007. However, regular traffic is yet to commence.

Setting up coach factory at Cherthala

2726. PROF P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced setting up of a coach factory at Cherthala in Kerala,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) by when the unit would commence its operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rail projects for the North East Region

2727. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail projects proposed for the North East Region during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(b) whether solid plans have been made for the success of the same so that it doesn't meet the fate of Bogibeel project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) There is no such specific plan for inclusion of new works in North East Region during Eleventh Plan. The Plan document is not yet finalized.

Plan to provide more facilities in railway colonies

†2728. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to give more facilities to railway colonies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.